

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optically compensatory polarizer comprising:
a polarizer including an absorption type polarizing
element, and transparent protective layers provided on opposite
5 sides of said absorption type polarizing element, each of said
transparent protective layers exhibiting an in-plane
retardation of not larger than 10 nm and a thicknesswise
retardation in a range of from 30 to 70 nm; and

at least one optically compensating film laminated on
10 at least one of opposite surfaces of said polarizer so that
a slow axis of each optically compensating film crosses an
absorption axis of said polarizer perpendicularly, said
optically compensating film exhibiting an in-plane retardation
in a range of from 80 to 200 nm and $N_z = (n_x - n_z) / (n_x - n_y)$
15 in a range of from -0.2 to 0.2 in which n_z is a refractive index
in a direction of a Z axis expressing a direction of the thickness
of said optically compensating film, n_x is a refractive index
in a direction of an X axis expressing a direction of said
optically compensating film in a sheet plane perpendicular to
20 said Z axis, n_y is a refractive index in a direction of a Y
axis expressing a direction of said optically compensating film
perpendicular both to said Z axis and to said X axis, and n_x
and n_y satisfy the relation $n_x > n_y$.

2. A liquid-crystal display device comprising:

a liquid-crystal cell; and

one optically compensatory polarizer according to claim

1 and provided on at least one of opposite surfaces of said

5 liquid-crystal cell.